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## Environmental Health

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### Goal

Health for all through a healthy environment.

### Overview

According to the National Center for Environmental Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—*Environmental public health is the discipline that focuses on the interrelationships between people and their environment, promotes human health and well-being, and fosters a safe and healthful environment.*

As one can tell from the definition, environmental health is very broad and all encompassing. Just the portion of the definition associated with fostering a safe and healthful environment covers a wide range of issues from assuring safe drinking water to reducing beach and recreational water contamination, air pollution, lead exposure in our homes, and environmental exposures to mercury, hepatitis A, and other toxins and pathogens.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health and its partners have strived to protect and ensure a safe environment through policies, enforcement, inspections, and implementation of new processes for emerging environmental health problems and concerns. We will continue to work jointly to protect the health and safety of Kentuckians as well as the environment of Kentucky.

### Summary of Progress

Kentucky, through its partnerships with the Poison Control Center, Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Conservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department for Public Health, has made considerable progress towards a healthier environment. Progress has been made toward reaching the targets of many of the HK 2010 objectives; however, efforts need to be refocused on other objectives to achieve their targets.

Some steps that have been taken include: continued surveillance of waterborne diseases (Kentucky had no outbreaks associated with drinking water as of 2005) and a continued focus on reducing the number of children who are poisoned each year. The baseline for receiving best management plans for agricultural water quality in 2000 was 5,500 plans. By midyear of 2005, 59,000 plans had been received, far exceeding the target. The Kentucky Lead Program has also experienced success. The Lead Program implemented an abatement permits and risk assessment/inspection review to ensure corrective action is taken on homes found to have lead. Progress has been made toward achieving targets in lead abatement activities pertaining to housing.

Other program areas which will be implementing new initiatives are the Consumer Products Section which will begin a partnership with the Department for Environmental Protection. The Consumer Products Section will establish a product safety database in 2006 to monitor and report on injuries and deaths to children from defective products. The database will enable the Department for Public Health to better monitor injuries and allow the Department to take timely action to avoid preventable deaths in children.

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The ongoing relationship between the Departments for Environmental Protection and Public Health has facilitated the creation of more dynamic and robust objectives in the areas of health and environmental air quality. These new objectives will be benchmarked in 2005 and 2006. As a result of these new objectives, the impact of air toxins as a whole can be assessed and non-attainment areas for ozone and particulates can be identified. Consequently, Kentucky will be better able to assess the impact of air quality on Kentuckians with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other respiratory illnesses. Kentucky will also be in a better position to monitor the impact of state initiatives on air quality and on our citizens' health.

## Progress toward Achieving Each HK 2010 Objective

Summary of Objectives for Environmental Health	Baseline	HK 2010 Target	Mid-Decade Status	Progress	Data Source
5.1. (Developmental) Ensure that there are no outbreaks of waterborne disease in water intended for drinking.	0 (2000)	0	0 (2005)	Target Achieved	KYEPHRS
5.2. - 5.3. (DELETED)					
5.4R. Increase the number of Best Management Plans set forth by Agriculture Water Quality Act by 80 percent.	5,500 (2000)	≥9,900	59,296 (2005)	Target Achieved	Best Management Plan Database
5.5.1R. Increase the number of abatement permits for lead housing projects to 115 per grant fiscal year.	7 (2000)	≥115	85 (2004)	Yes	Env. Lead Rep. System
5.5.2R. For lead in housing, increase the number of risk assessments/inspections reviewed to 400 reports.	7 (2000)	≥400	307 (2004)	Yes	Env. Lead Rep. System
5.6. (DELETED)					
5.7R. Reduce nonfatal poisonings of children (<19) from exposures to household chemicals by 1 percent.	8,400 (2000)	≤8,316	9,044 (2004)	No	TESS
5.8R. Increase the number of "short" radon test kits conducted.	2,042 (2000)	≥3000	2,801 (2003)	Yes	Public Protection and Safety Database
5.9. - 5.11. (DELETED)					
5.12. Reduce the number of injuries and deaths to children caused by defective consumer products.	Database to be developed in 2006	TBD	TBD	TBD	Product Safety Database
5.13. (DELETED)					
5.14N. Ensure areas of the state designated by U.S EPA, as not meeting an Ambient Air Quality Standard, are brought into compliance to provide healthy air quality for all citizens of the Commonwealth.	8 counties deemed non-attainment for 8 hour ozone (2004); 6 counties deemed non-attainment for fine particulate (2005)	All counties Re-designated to attainment	8 counties deemed non-attainment for 8 hour ozone (2005); 6 counties deemed non-attainment for fine particulate (2005)	No	Federal Air Quality Systems Database
5.15N. Reduce hazardous and toxic air pollutants to levels that protect Kentucky's citizens from excess cancer incidences and/or unacceptable risks.	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	

R = Revised objective, N = New objective

TBD = To be determined. No reliable data currently exist.